

# Mineral Industry Surveys

---

**For information, contact:**

Peter N. Gabby, Acting Zinc Commodity Specialist  
U.S. Geological Survey  
989 National Center  
Reston, VA 20192  
Telephone: (703) 648-4957  
E-mail: [pgabby@usgs.gov](mailto:pgabby@usgs.gov)

Samir Hakim (Data)  
Telephone: (703) 648-4998  
Fax: (703) 648-7975  
E-mail: [shakim@usgs.gov](mailto:shakim@usgs.gov)

**Internet:** <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>

## ZINC IN JULY 2006

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in July 2006 was 64,700 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Average daily mine production in July was 2,090 t, 5% higher than that in June and slightly higher than that in July 2005. Mine production for the first 7 months of 2006 was about 2% lower than that for the first 7 months of 2005. Estimated average daily smelter production of refined zinc was about 11% higher than that in June but about 24% lower than that in July 2005. Apparent consumption of 95,800 t of zinc was slightly higher than that in June and about 18% higher than that in July 2005.

The Platts Metals Week average price for North American Special High Grade Zinc for the month of July was 163.73 cents per pound, an increase of 4% from the June average price and an increase of 182% from the July 2005 average price. The average London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price for July

increased to \$3,338.80 per metric ton of zinc, about a 4% increase compared with the price in June and a 180% increase compared with the price in July 2005. During July 2006, global LME zinc stocks dropped by 30,575 t to 184,350 t.

The Defense National Stockpile Center aggregated cash disposal (sale) of zinc in June, under the monthly Basic Ordering Agreement DLA-Zinc-004, was approximately 907 t (1,000 short tons), with an approximate value of \$3.1 million (Defense National Stockpile Center, 2006).

## Reference Cited

Defense National Stockpile Center, 2006, Stockpile announces zinc BOA sales for July 2006: Fort Belvoir, VA, Defense National Stockpile Center news release, August 7, 1 p.

TABLE 1  
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2005	2006			
	January- December	May	June	July	January- July
<b>Production:</b>					
Mine, zinc content of concentrate	748,000	56,400	62,000 <sup>r</sup>	67,100	421,000
Mine, recoverable zinc	720,000	54,300	59,800 <sup>r</sup>	64,700	404,000
Smelter, refined zinc <sup>2</sup>	259,000	19,100 <sup>e</sup>	19,200 <sup>e</sup>	22,100 <sup>e</sup>	142,000 <sup>e</sup>
<b>Consumption:</b>					
Refined zinc, reported	405,000	33,100	34,200	32,400	238,000
Ores <sup>e</sup> (zinc content)	727	61	61	61	424
Zinc-base scrap <sup>e</sup> (zinc content)	191,000	15,900	15,900	15,900	111,000
Copper-base scrap <sup>e</sup> (zinc content)	176,000	14,700	14,700	14,700	103,000
Aluminum-and magnesium-base scrap <sup>e</sup> (zinc content)	1,430	120	120	120	837
Total <sup>e</sup>	774,000	63,900	65,000	63,200	453,000
Apparent consumption, metal <sup>3</sup>	939,000	89,200 <sup>r</sup>	95,700 <sup>r</sup>	95,800 <sup>4</sup>	626,000
<b>Stocks of refined (slab) zinc, end of period:</b>					
Producer <sup>5</sup>	XX	6,300	6,510 <sup>e</sup>	6,340 <sup>e</sup>	XX
Consumer <sup>6</sup>	XX	54,400	54,100	54,700	XX
Merchant	XX	10,200	10,400	10,400	XX
Total	XX	70,900	71,000 <sup>r</sup>	71,400	XX
Shipments of zinc metal from Government stockpile	20,400	301	3,270	907	11,400
<b>Imports for consumption:</b>					
Refined (slab) zinc	668,000	64,600	73,300	NA	403,000 <sup>7</sup>
Oxide (gross weight)	109,000	12,300	10,200	NA	67,300 <sup>7</sup>
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	156,000	21,200	2,840	NA	56,900 <sup>7</sup>
<b>Exports:</b>					
Refined (slab) zinc	784	114	81	NA	875 <sup>7</sup>
Oxide (gross weight)	14,600	2,930	2,350	NA	13,700 <sup>7</sup>
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	786,000	11,500	12,400	NA	85,900 <sup>7</sup>
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	56,000	5,930	5,770	NA	30,200 <sup>7</sup>
<b>Price:</b>					
London Metal Exchange, average, dollars per metric ton	\$1,381.37	\$3,564.51	\$3,224.66	\$3,338.80	\$2,848.14
Platts Metals Week North American Special High Grade, average, cents per pound	67.14	172.59	157.93	163.73	138.20

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. <sup>r</sup>Revised. NA Not available. XX Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; except prices; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Includes zinc metal used to manufacture zinc oxide.

<sup>3</sup>Smelter production plus imports minus exports plus shipments from Government stockpile plus stock change.

<sup>4</sup>Data based on reported consumption, stocks, and estimated trade data.

<sup>5</sup>Data from U.S. Geological Survey and American Bureau of Metal Statistics.

<sup>6</sup>Includes an estimate for companies that report annually.

<sup>7</sup>Includes data through June only.

TABLE 2  
REFINED ZINC PRODUCED IN THE UNITED STATES<sup>1,2</sup>

(Metric tons)

Month	Beginning stocks <sup>3</sup>	Production	Shipments	Ending stocks <sup>3</sup>
2005:				
July	8,070	20,200	20,900	7,400
August	7,400	20,500	21,000	6,960
September	6,960	19,900	22,500	4,390
October	4,390	22,600	23,000	4,010
November	4,010	24,600	24,500	4,040
December	4,040	23,700	22,200	5,590
January-December	XX	259,000	258,000	XX
2006:				
January	5,590	21,200 <sup>e</sup>	20,100 <sup>e</sup>	6,750
February	6,750	19,000 <sup>e</sup>	20,200 <sup>e</sup>	5,530
March	5,530	22,100 <sup>e</sup>	21,100 <sup>e</sup>	6,580
April	6,580	19,300 <sup>e</sup>	18,800 <sup>e</sup>	7,150
May	7,150	19,100 <sup>e</sup>	19,900 <sup>e</sup>	6,300
June	6,300	19,200 <sup>e</sup>	19,000 <sup>e</sup>	6,510
July	6,510	22,100 <sup>e</sup>	22,300 <sup>e</sup>	6,340
January-July	XX	142,000 <sup>e</sup>	141,000 <sup>e</sup>	XX

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. XX Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Includes zinc metal used to manufacture zinc oxide.

<sup>3</sup>Includes stocks held at locations other than smelters.

Sources: U.S. Geological Survey and American Bureau of Metal Statistics.

TABLE 3  
APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF REFINED ZINC ACCORDING TO INDUSTRY USE  
AND PRODUCT<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Industry and product	2005	2006			
	January- December <sup>2</sup>	May <sup>r</sup>	June <sup>r</sup>	July <sup>2</sup>	January- July
Galvanizing:					
Sheet and strip	392,000	36,200	39,400	39,800	260,000
Other	121,000	12,500	13,600	14,000	86,600
Total	513,000	48,700	53,000	53,800	347,000
Brass and bronze	147,000	14,400	15,300	14,200	97,600
Zinc-base alloy	203,000	19,200	20,200	20,500	134,000
Other uses <sup>3</sup>	76,900	6,900	7,200	7,300	48,300
Grand total	939,000	89,200	95,700	95,800	626,000

<sup>r</sup>Revised.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Data based on reported consumption, stocks, and estimated trade data.

<sup>3</sup>Includes zinc used in making zinc dust, desilvering lead, powder, alloys, anodes, chemicals, castings, light metal alloys, rolled zinc, and miscellaneous uses not elsewhere specified.

TABLE 4  
AVERAGE ZINC PRICES<sup>1</sup>

Period	North American	LME <sup>2</sup> cash	
	¢/lb.	¢/lb.	\$/t
2005:			
July	57.96	54.16	1,194.08
August	62.94	58.88	1,298.05
September	67.89	63.37	1,397.08
October	72.66	67.49	1,487.91
November	78.47	73.06	1,610.61
December	88.01	82.62	1,821.44
January-December	67.14	62.66	1,381.37
2006:			
January	100.96	94.80	2,089.92
February	106.84	100.65	2,218.90
March	116.80	109.61	2,416.44
April	148.56	139.88	3,083.75
May	172.59	161.68	3,564.51
June	157.93	146.27	3,224.66
July	163.73	151.45	3,338.80
January-July	138.20	129.19	2,848.14

<sup>1</sup>Special High Grade.

<sup>2</sup>London Metal Exchange.

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 5  
U.S. EXPORTS OF ZINC<sup>1</sup>

Material	2005		2006 <sup>2</sup>			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	June		Year to date	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Refined (slab) zinc	784	\$1,500	81	\$90	875	\$1,870
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	786,000	477,000	12,400	19,600	85,900	66,400
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	56,000	62,000	5,770	7,530	30,200	40,500
Powders, flakes, dust (zinc content)	9,310	18,500	1,830	3,190	6,480	12,700
Oxide (gross weight)	14,600	23,600	2,350	3,920	13,700	21,300
Chloride (gross weight)	1,860	2,310	172	202	618	748
Sulfate (gross weight)	2,820	1,870	244	173	7,070	4,770
Compounds, other (gross weight)	1,130	887	296	303	427	765

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

<sup>2</sup>Data for July 2006 were not available at time of publication.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 6  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ZINC<sup>1</sup>

Material	2005		2006 <sup>2</sup>			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	June		Year to date	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Refined (slab) zinc	668,000	\$875,000	73,300	\$171,000	403,000	\$754,000
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	156,000	117,000	2,840	5,330	56,900	65,800
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	9,580	8,820	1,480	1,610	7,160	8,470
Powders, flakes, dust (zinc content)	23,400	46,000	2,320	8,280	13,600	40,300
Oxide (gross weight)	109,000	127,000	10,200	21,200	67,300	109,000
Chloride (gross weight)	723	1,250	129	157	809	1,130
Sulfate (gross weight)	31,100	16,600	2,400	2,020	22,100	13,900
Compounds, other (gross weight)	7,010	6,370	170	230	3,800	2,600

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

<sup>2</sup>Data for July 2006 were not available at time of publication.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7  
SHIPMENTS OF ZINC METAL FROM THE NATIONAL  
DEFENSE STOCKPILE<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Period	Beginning inventory	Shipments	Ending inventory
2005:			
July	62,100	2,600	59,500
August	59,500	3,680	55,800
September	55,800	3,710	52,100
October	52,100	3,010	49,100
November	49,100	2,830	46,300
December	46,300	299	46,000
January-December	XX	20,400	XX
2006:			
January	46,000	1,890	44,100
February	44,100	526	43,600
March	43,600	1,720	41,900
April	41,900	2,810	39,000
May	39,000	301	38,700
June	38,700	3,270	35,500
July	35,500	907	34,600
January-July	XX	11,400	XX

XX Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Defense Logistics Agency.

TABLE 8  
U.S. IMPORTS OF ZINC, BY TYPE OF MATERIAL AND COUNTRY<sup>1,2</sup>

(Metric tons)

Material and country	General imports			Imports for consumption		
	2005	2006		2005	2006	
		June	Year to date		June	Year to date
Ore and concentrate (zinc content):						
Australia	8,590	--	2,850	8,590	--	2,850
Ireland	13,000	--	8,470	13,000	--	8,470
Mexico	27,300	--	17,200	27,300	--	17,200
Peru	104,000	2,840	26,700	104,000	2,840	26,700
Other	2,900	--	1,680	2,900	--	1,680
Total	156,000	2,840	56,900	156,000	2,840	56,900
Blocks, pigs, or slab:						
Australia	1	--	--	24,600	4,860	22,300
Brazil	43,700	--	6,460	43,800	755	7,490
Canada	439,000	45,800	266,000	439,000	45,800	266,000
China	15	--	3	2,140	6,190	31,400
Japan	--	--	--	1,210	2,020	4,240
Kazakhstan	--	--	--	--	--	--
Korea, Republic of	5,030	--	--	8,710	5,320	33,100
Mexico	147,000	6,830	35,600	147,000	7,100	35,900
Norway	--	--	--	--	49	981
Peru	235	--	194	834	--	471
Other	1,320	--	21	1,770	1,240	1,260
Total	636,000	52,600	308,000	668,000	73,300	403,000
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	15,800	3,770	17,400	15,800	3,770	17,400
Grand total	807,000	59,200	383,000	840,000	79,900	478,000
Oxide (gross weight):						
Canada	62,000	4,000	27,300	62,000	4,000	27,300
China	173	20	56	173	20	56
Italy	15,400	3,240	11,800	15,400	3,240	11,800
Japan	1,080	80	609	1,080	80	609
Mexico	24,100	2,090	15,800	24,100	2,090	15,800
Netherlands	4,450	367	3,040	4,450	367	3,040
Other	2,040	449	8,690	2,040	449	8,690
Total	109,000	10,200	67,300	109,000	10,200	67,300
Other (gross weight):						
Waste and scrap	9,580	1,480	7,160	9,580	1,480	7,160
Sheets	3,630	39	1,130	3,630	39	1,130
Powders, flakes, dust (zinc content)	23,400	2,320	13,600	23,400	2,320	13,600

-- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Data for July 2006 were not available at time of publication.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.